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SANTA FE RAILROAD, JOLIET FREIGHT DEPOT
I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor
At Cass and Scott streets
Joliet
Will County
Illinois

HAER No. IL-61

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
SANTA FE RAILROAD, JOLIET FREIGHT DEPOT
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Location: I & M Canal National Heritage Corridor
Cass and Scott Streets
Joliet, Will County, Illinois

UTM: 16 E.410020 N.4597620
Quad: Joliet

Date of Construction: ca. 1889

Builder: Santa Fe Railroad

Present Status: Vacant

Significance: This depot was built by the Santa Fe Railroad after the line was reorganized in the 1880s.

Project Information: The Illinois and Michigan Canal was designated a National Heritage Corridor in 1984. The following year HABS/HAER embarked on an extensive inventory and documentation project of the 100 mile-long corridor. Field work for this project was concluded in 1988. Final editing of the documentation was completed in 1992.

Historians: Joseph DeRose and Carolyn Brown, 1986.

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, incorporated in 1873, originally ran west from Kansas. Seeking an entrance into Chicago and railroad connections with the Atlantic coast, the Santa Fe organized a new line, the Chicago, Santa Fe & California, to run west from Chicago to Kansas. This Midwestern branch began serving Lockport and Joliet in May 1888. About one year later the Santa Fe completed construction of this freight depot in Joliet. Adjoining a timber-frame warehouse, the building served as an office. The long, narrow warehouse building dates from the early 1900s. Although no longer operated by the Santa Fe, these buildings remain in place.

The depot is a two-and-one-half-story building measuring 35' x 35'. The building has random-range limestone walls, interior timber post-and-beam frame, and intersecting gable roof. The projecting main entrance is highlighted by a stone-arch doorway. The tall, narrow windows have a southern orientation, and the openings are spanned by limestone lintels. All of the windows have been removed. The warehouse, measuring about 146' x 30', is a one-and-one-half-story timber-frame structure. The warehouse adjoins the stone building. This timber frame structure contains about twenty bays on either side and was constructed in the early 1900s.

SOURCES:

Robert E. Sterling, Joliet: A Pictorial History (St. Louis: G. Bradley Publishing, Inc., 1986).

Sanborn Map Co., Joliet, Illinois (New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1924).